

MEMPHIS APPEAL - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1863.

Daily Appeal.
ATLANTA, GA.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 9.

MILITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Our Richmond correspondent, in his letter published in yesterday's edition, mentions the perplexities of our masters indicating important changes in some of the heads of departments, of the Treasury and War. While the head of the Treasury, is a thoroughly honest and sensible man, and has devoted himself unceasingly to the duties of his department, the position of the finances has not increased, and, in proportion to his energy and ability, it may be that a master, like a good minister, fit, and the practical difficulty which may present itself to the Executive may be, the selection of his successor.

In the War Department, the incumbrance which is the present state of the country, he regarded, as it has been in France, the members of the Cabinet, there may be less difficulty in finding a worthy in highroad, as there may be less reluctance in the mind of the Executive, judging from the past, to accept the agency of a resignation. The difficulty with a first appointment, that of Gen. WALKER, a man of advanced high general qualities of intellect and character, was the difference which attended a want of administrative experience of any kind, the fruitfulness of responsibility which breeds a man not familiar with the forms of official business, when plans and decisions involving complex momentous, cannot be formed on the spur of the occasion, without time for reflection necessary to mature them. Mr. BUR-

-well, was a cavalryman. He had the knowledge of an office, and too little of the country, which displayed itself in wasting its energies upon matters which should have only engaged the attention of a clerk, to the neglect, if not sacrifice, of the paramount substantial interests of the army and country.

Mr. BURMAN has over struck us as possessing much of attachment, shrewdness, and tact, but attachment, shrewdness, and tact, suggestive of the ready expedients of administration, than of the grave judgments of administration. What General BUMFORD's fault was, we have never learned, and only knew that he was indeed a gentleman of intellect and culture, but holding him in high respect for faithfulness and integrity, regard him as either a CANNON or CANTRELLAGE. Considering the number of changes in the department, it cannot be said, save exemplarily, to have been well filled.

The fault, we think, has been in our bostwo in the appointment of a military man of large intellect and experience, a military man of large experience in affairs, at good judgment of men, comprehensive knowledge of the topography of the country, in combination with extensive knowledge of the capacities and wants of the country, derived from the experience of active service. As the best and broadest intellect in the army should command the army, the best intellect among generals should command and direct the whole, the Secretary combining in himself the requisite qualities of the minister and commander-in-chief. As the intellect, perfect in a peculiarity, would be exercised by his talents, to a large general field of duty, so that may be intellects which world not fit place, if charged with the details of field of limited or contracted responsibilities, or placed in subordination to men of capacities inferior to themselves. We have seen the evil effects of this upon the army during the war, which, outside of the personal jealousy and distrust engendered in the smaller mind toward the larger, often embarrasses the service, and increases the chances of failure by collisions between official superiority of rank, and personal superiority of intellect.

In all matters the greater intellect should obviously control the smaller, and particularly in a service providing jealousy for the maintenance of authority, and, where, if possible, official authority should not rest upon rank or date of commission, but upon the merit of individuals.

The Alexandria (La.) Dusseray says the friends of General Magruder recently authorized five thousand dollars as a ducor to that officer, which they tendered him in consequence of the depreciation in the currency and his probable inability to meet his necessary expenses. Gen. Magruder declined accepting the money, in a note, from which the following is an extract:

"I endorsed poverty while pleasure when I gave myself to the holy and righteous cause. A soldier from choice and impulse. I shall not charge my Government with the fault of individuals, but will serve it as faithfully as though my currency were past."

Why is the Mason Telegraph does not favor us with an exchange?

We are requested to state that "Blind Tom" arrived in the city this morning, and the entertainment advertised for the benefit of our blind and wounded soldiers, will take place this evening, at the Atheneum.

We notice that the Salt Commissioner of the State of Alabama reports that he is making three hundred bushels of salt daily. His jaw from the State treasury one hundred and forty thousand dollars, and has already turned over to the State two thousand bushels of salt, which is nearly twice what the treasury would purchase at the present price.

BONHOMIE AND RECOVERY.—We are informed that on the evening of the 4th instant the Southern express company was robbed of twenty thousand dollars, at Fort Valley, Ga., by a band of robbers or desperadoes, with whom, it was known, John W. Jones, a young man named Norcom, some seventeen or eighteen years of age, was arrested the next day, and was released on the 6th.

WHICH THE MOST PATHETIC!—The Atlanta Chronicle and Sentinel asks which is the most patriotic act—that of the Atlanta Legislature, which passed a resolution to call up the corps in the State House to make blankets for the soldiers, or that of the his Confederate Legislator, who might be the exception of a presumption which might be imposed for bad taste or questionable patriotism.

That our army has an abundance of intelligence, and all positions are unquestionable, needing only for its judicious employment, the exercise of a discriminating wisdom in its appropriate distribution. There is no part of local army administration which has ever struck us with surprise, and that in the want of judgment—displayed by general officers in the selection of the men composing their staffs, and this not so much from the want of intellect or intelligence in the officers, but from the unscrupulous influences of suspicion, interest, ambition or other causes equally personal. We would not say that one's own son, or brother or sister's son, or uncle or cousin's son, or an experienced judge, or able lawyer, or tried publican, is not a good man, but we need for the very highest order of intelligence—intelligence appropriate to the post of duties assigned to each subdivision.

GUERRILLAS TO BE SHOT.—A letter from the headquarters of Meade's army says: "An order has been issued that all guerrillas captured are to be immediately shot. This order, it is inferred, will soon check the depredations of these desperate brigands, who have too long been allowed to carry on their operations without the law."

LETTERS FROM CALIFORNIA.—A private letter from a Texas soldier, dated at Memphis the 1st, says the last news from several of the river report three full regiments from California, well armed and equipped, to have joined our army, and two more were on the way for the same purpose.

THE ARLINGTON ESTATE.—The Alexandria (Va.) Gazette says that the Arlington estate, originally owned by Gen. Robert E. Lee, and the Castle Hill property, adjoining, are advertised by John Haworth, W. F. Tolson, and G. W. Watson, commissioners, to be sold for unpaid taxes, under recent acts of the Congress of the United States. The tax due on the Arlington estate is \$92.07; penalty \$46.04; on the Mill property \$9.45.

THE BLOACKADE IN FLORIDA.—The Citizen of Milledgeville is the celebrated African missionary and writer, Dr. Brown. Since he has been a patient, he has written a special book and grammar which have been published, and is now engaged on a work on chemistry and philosophy. Another patient is the post-prison. The institution has three hundred and forty inmates, a large per cent. of whom are equally personal. We would not say that one's own son, or brother or sister's son, or uncle or cousin's son, or an experienced judge, or able lawyer, or tried publican, is not a good man, but we need for the very highest order of intelligence—intelligence appropriate to the post of duties assigned to each subdivision.

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